



# Linn County Routes

Linn County Secondary Road Department

Fall 2021

319-892-6400  
1888 County Home Road  
Marion, IA 52302  
[LinnCountyIowa.gov](http://LinnCountyIowa.gov)

## Winter Weather Ready

Be in the know before the snow blows by reviewing Linn County’s Snow and Ice Removal Ordinance and the Secondary Road Department Snow & Ice Policy adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The ordinance and policy are available for review online at [LinnCountyIowa.gov](http://LinnCountyIowa.gov) or at the Engineer’s Office. Important points of the policy include:

- No “dry pavement” policy
- Hard surface and high traffic roads are given priority during and after snow and ice events
- Salt and sand are only applied to hard surface roads
- Rock roads are plowed to provide access to the hard surface system
- In an emergency, always call 911. Residents should keep sufficient supplies of food and fuel on hand to avoid becoming an emergency.
- Linn County does not remove snow from sidewalks or driveways. Unavoidably, snow is deposited on sidewalks and in driveways during county plowing.



Regular hours of operation are Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Hours may be extended during a snow event to 4 a.m. to 6 p.m., including Saturday and Sunday, at the direction of the County Engineer or designee. This expansion allows crews time to clear the roads for residents to commute to and from work and to respond to weekend snow events.

### Snow Removal By Property Owners

Property owners are responsible for removing snow from sidewalks and driveways. When removing snow from your driveway, do not plow snow across the road. Instead, place snow on private property and push snow off the shoulder and into the ditch. Leaving snow on the shoulder as shown below may cause unsafe roadways and may damage the plow and truck.



### New Route Improvements for Winter Season

For the 2021-22 season, priority response has expanded from 21 to 30 Priority routes to include all hard surfaced roads. In past years, our Priority routes consisted of 21 routes, which included most of the hard surfaced roads except for subdivisions. Our Standard routes (41 total including Priority routes) include every road in our system, rock and hard surfaced. The type of response depends on the specific weather event.

### Reminders for Residents

Do your part to help Secondary Road crews this winter:

- Remove cars from roadways during snow events.
- Ensure your mailbox meets County and Iowa code standards.
- Keep a safe distance from snow plows and maintenance vehicles.
- Review the snow route maps available at [LinnCountyIowa.gov](http://LinnCountyIowa.gov).
- Sign up for snow removal alerts at [LinnCountyIowa.gov/NotifyMe](http://LinnCountyIowa.gov/NotifyMe).
- Practice patience with Linn County crews and other community members.

# Winter Weather Operations FAQ's

Each year, the Secondary Road Department receives a multitude of calls relating to winter weather operations. While each snow or ice event is unique, there are general rules we follow when clearing the Linn County secondary road system. Here are the answers to some of our most frequently asked questions:

## Q: What is the difference between Priority and Standard routes?

**A:** Priority routes include all hard surfaced roads (30 routes total) and Standard routes (41 total) include all Priority routes and all other secondary roads in Linn County. Priority routes are cleared first as they experience higher traffic counts than the other roads.

## Q: How do you decide if crews will plow outside of normal hours of operation?

**A:** The Operations Superintendent monitors multiple weather forecasting apps, uses the Iowa DOT RWIS system to check air and pavement temperatures, and watches Iowa DOT live cameras to see current conditions when a winter weather event is predicted for Linn County. Then, around 1 a.m., the superintendent drives a two hour route through the whole County in two-wheel drive to get a sense of how difficult it is to get around. If the decision is made to call in crews for extended hours, the superintendent calls the seven managers who call the 30-41 other crew members for an early start time.

## Q: Why don't you salt the rock roads?

**A:** Salt and sand are only applied to hard surfaced roads due to the damage it can cause to rock roads. As the salt melts the snow/ice, it causes the salt and water solution to penetrate into the road surface. This causes the road surface to break up and loosens the previously hard packed surface. This process will continue to progress into the base of the road and can create a quicksand like effect. Further damage to the road can occur as vehicles drive over the road because they sink into the road instead of riding across the top.

## Q: How long does it take to clear a secondary road route?

**A:** During a Priority route response, 30 crew members operating 30 truck plows usually take three hours to clear all hard surfaced roads. During a Standard route response, 41 crew members operating 30 truck plows and 11 motor graders usually take 10-12 hours to clear all Linn County secondary roads. Response times can vary greatly based upon the weather conditions.

# County Home Road Improvement Project

County Home Road is now open to traffic following completion of the final phase of a three-phase improvement project. Construction on County Home Road between N Center Point Road and Gilmore Road included 10" concrete paving, the addition of right and left turn lanes, and a roundabout at the C Ave Ext intersection. The improvements made related to safety and traffic flow will improve the driving experience on and around County Home Road for years to come.

To receive text or email updates on Linn County Secondary Road construction projects, visit [LinnCountyIowa.gov/NotifyMe](https://linncountyiowa.gov/NotifyMe).





# 2021 Construction and Maintenance Projects

## Completed Bridge Projects

Bridge 1208 on Burnett Station Road (pictured below) was replaced this year and repairs were completed on the following bridges:

- 641 on Mount Vernon Road
- 1699 on Springville Road
- 1663 on Austin Road
- 2190 on Sisley Grove Road



## Business Highway 30 Paving

The asphalt paving project on Business 30 from Lisbon city limits to the dead end in Cedar County was completed in August. The project included 1.5" milling and 4" asphalt overlay.



## Facts & Figures

Crews were busy during the 2021 construction and maintenance season. The following projects were also completed this year:

- Rock overlays: 76.7 miles completed with 88,770 tons of rock
- Seal coat: 21.9 miles completed (Deer Valley Drive pictured below)
- Grading: 3.77 miles completed on Linn-Benton Road & E Avenue NW



## Ivanhoe Road Paving

The concrete paving project on Ivanhoe Road from Cedar Rapids city limits to Jappa Road was completed in August. The project included 8" concrete paving and 3' rock shoulders.



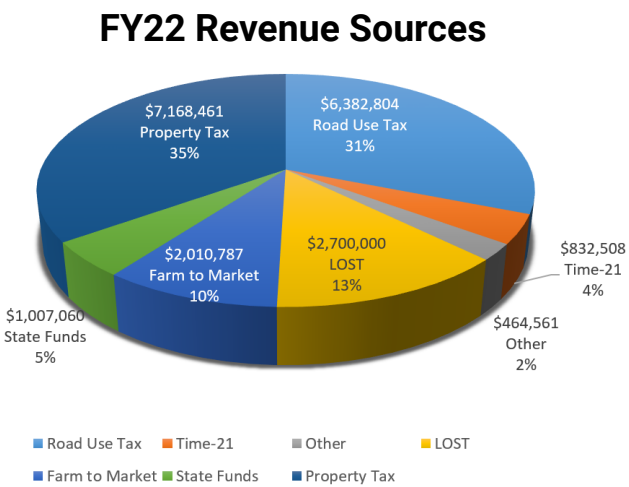
# Property Tax Dollars at Work

If you own property in Linn County, your annual tax bill funds much more than County government. Other government entities – such as school districts – also establish a levy rate, which is reflected in annual tax bills. The Linn County Treasurer’s Office collects property taxes and then distributes them to each of the taxing jurisdictions. The percentage of property taxes that fund Linn County services will vary depending on where your property is located. Linn County taxes represent slightly more than one-third of property taxes for rural residents.

The tax dollars you pay to Linn County fund the following important services:

- Public safety and legal services
- Physical health and social services
- Mental health
- Administration
- Roads and transportation
- Capital projects
- Environment and education
- Government services
- Debt service

We know one of the most important budget categories for our rural residents is secondary roads. So here is an example of how that breakdown would look on a property assessed at \$195,000: For example, of the property taxes paid for a property assessed at \$195,000 in rural Linn County, only \$279 would go to the Secondary Road Department. This would cover the cost for one lineal foot of paving for a project like County Home Road.



The local funds collected from the revenue sources listed in the graph above were split into the following expenditures for FY22:

- Administration: 42%
- Bridges: 2%
- Construction: 8%
- Equipment: 16%
- Maintenance: 30%
- Other: 2%

All revenue from Farm to Market, the State, and LOST go toward construction.

# Locations

## Engineer’s Office

1888 County Home Road, Marion 319-892-6400

## Main Shop

1944 County Home Road, Marion 319-892-6400

## District Shops

### District #1

Morgan Creek Shop, 1206 Stoney Point Road NW, Cedar Rapids  
Toddville Shop, 3170 Cora Mae Lane, Toddville

### District #2

Mt. Vernon Shop, 788 Cedar River Rd, Mt Vernon  
Walford Road Shop, 650 Walford Rd. SW

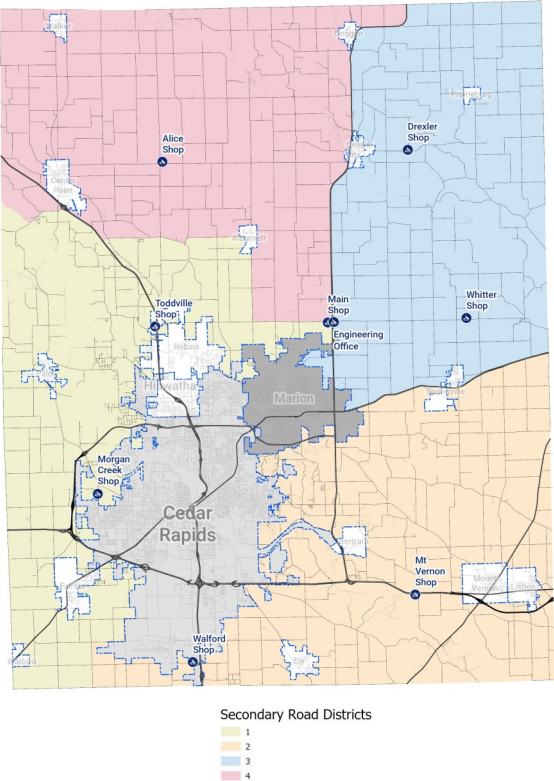
### District #3

Drexler Shop, 4720 Drexler Rd, Central City  
Whittier Shop, 721 County Home Road, Springville

### District #4

Alice Shop, 3375 Central City Rd, Center Point

For additional contact information, visit our website at [LinnCountyIowa.gov/Engineer](http://LinnCountyIowa.gov/Engineer) and click on Staff Directory.



**Sign up for reminders and notifications at [LinnCountyIowa.gov](http://LinnCountyIowa.gov)!**

- News releases & announcements
- Dust control
- Newsletters
- Construction projects
- Snow removal
- Calendar